

Washington, D.C.--The Greenfield chapter of YouthBuild, a national program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth, has been awarded a \$550,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"Providing education and work opportunities for our youth is a key strategy in keeping them off the streets and offering them productive, safe roles in our communities," said **Congressman Sam Farr** (D-Carmel). "YouthBuild is an excellent program that not only offers the skills to succeed, it instills a sense of hope in our youth that will serve them throughout their lives."

The local YouthBuild program, established in 2004, is managed by city of Greenfield, with educational instruction provided by the John Muir Charter School. The program's goal is to help young people earn high school diplomas and obtain job skills in the construction field. The Greenfield chapter is part of the national YouthBuild program, which was created in 1990 and has 226 programs.

"The program has allowed us to assist our local youth succeed by learning building trade skills while also developing their basic education skills," said **Greenfield Mayor John Huerta**. "We have seen the program improve our youth so that they are able to obtain steady employment or continue their education. I greatly appreciate the assistance of Congressman Sam Farr, who was very supportive of our grant application."

YouthBuild provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth. Over a two-year period, students ages 16 to 24 will receive education and job training while constructing or repairing housing for low-income families in Greenfield. The project is expected to produce five new homes.

Participants split their time between the construction site and the classroom and are offered support systems including mentoring, employment and personal counseling services. The grant provides for equal second-year funding contingent upon congressional approval.

The Greenfield program has a new building with enough space to complete basic construction training. Participants have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of post-secondary programs to obtain additional job skills.

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